

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05 INR-05 CIAE-00

SP-02 PRS-01 IO-03 ARA-06 /044 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:GCB

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R 300050Z DEC 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 304130

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE

SUBJECT: ELIAS SARKIS

REF: BEIRUT 15516

1. WE HAVE BEEN GIVING CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO YOUR OBSERVATION THAT IT COULD BE HELPFUL TO RECEIVE SARKIS IN WASHINGTON FOLLOWING HIS VISIT TO JAMAICA. WE SHARE YOUR GOOD OPINION OF THE MAN AND, UNDER MOST CIRCUMSTANCES, WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE A WASHINGTON VISIT. OUR VIEWS, HOWEVER, ARE COLORED BY SEVERAL CONSIDERATIONS.

2. WE DO NOT WANT TO APPEAR IN LEBANESE EYES, AT THIS TIME AT LEAST, TO BE TAKING THE INITIATIVE FOR A VISIT BY A POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL SPECULATION THIS MIGHT GENERATE, THE END RESULT MIGHT BE A POISONOUS KISS TO A MAN WHO OTHERWISE MIGHT BE CONSIDERED A REASONABLE COMPROMISE REPLACEMENT FOR FRANGIE. IF SARKIS HAD, LIKE EDDE, TAKEN THE INITIATIVE, WE WOULD OF COURSE HAVE MADE SUITABLE AND SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS.

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3. ANOTHER CONSIDERATION IS THAT MAJOR US OFFICIALS WHO SHOULD RECEIVE SARKIS ON SUCH VISIT WILL BE HEAVILY ENGAGED IN PREPARATIONS FOR SC DEBATE, ISRAELI VISITORS, AND RELATED MATTERS.

4. SINCE SARKIS IS NOT LOOKING FOR SUCH A VISIT, AND SINCE YOU HAVE NOT ENCOURAGED HIM, WE ASSUME YOU WILL HAVE NO PROBLEM IN YOUR SUBSEQUENT CONTACTS. YOU MAY WISH TO TELL SARKIS, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAVE GREATLY VALUED HIS THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ON THE LEBANESE SITUATION AND TRUST THAT THE TWO OF YOU WILL REMAIN IN FREQUENT CONTACT. ROBINSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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